

CLAIMS**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for performing speech recognition comprising:
determining a recognition result for received user speech, said recognition result comprising recognized text and a corresponding confidence score;
comparing said confidence score corresponding to said recognition result to a predetermined minimum threshold; and
if said confidence score does not exceed said predetermined minimum threshold, presenting said user with at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate corresponding to said recognition result.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a user input specifying one of said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidates as a correct recognition result corresponding to said received user speech.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate is phonetically similar to said recognition result.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate is substantially phonetically equivalent to said recognition result.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate has a corresponding conditional probability.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate has a corresponding conditional probability greater than a predetermined threshold.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate is presented in a graphical format.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidate is presented using an audio user interface.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said speech specifies a character, and at least one of said at least one empirically determined alternate word candidates is a character.

10. A method for performing speech recognition comprising:
 determining a recognition result for received user speech specifying a character, said recognition result comprising a character interpretation of said user speech and a corresponding confidence score;
 comparing said confidence score corresponding to said recognition result to a predetermined minimum threshold; and
 if said confidence score does not exceed said predetermined minimum threshold, presenting said user with at least one empirically determined alternate character candidate corresponding to said recognition result, said alternate character candidate having a corresponding conditional probability.

11. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:
 determining a recognition result for received user speech, said recognition result

5 comprising recognized text and a corresponding confidence score;

6 comparing said confidence score corresponding to said recognition result to a
7 predetermined minimum threshold; and

8 if said confidence score does not exceed said predetermined minimum
9 threshold, presenting said user with at least one empirically determined alternate word
10 candidate corresponding to said recognition result.

1 12. The machine readable storage of claim 11, further comprising:

2 receiving a user input specifying one of said at least one empirically determined
3 alternate word candidates as a correct recognition result corresponding to said received
4 user speech.

5 13. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said at least one empirically
6 determined alternate word candidate is phonetically similar to said recognition result.

7 14. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said at least one empirically
8 determined alternate word candidate is substantially phonetically equivalent to said
9 recognition result.

10 15. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said at least one empirically
11 determined alternate word candidate has a corresponding conditional probability.

12 16. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said at least one empirically
13 determined alternate word candidate has a corresponding conditional probability
14 greater than a predetermined threshold.

15 17. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said at least one empirically
16 determined alternate word candidate is presented in a graphical format.

1 18. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said at least one empirically
2 determined alternate word candidate is presented using an audio user interface.

1 19. The machine readable storage of claim 11, wherein said speech specifies a
2 character, and at least one of said at least one empirically determined alternate word
3 candidates is a character.

1 20. A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having
2 a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to
3 perform the steps of:

4 determining a recognition result for received user speech specifying a character,
5 said recognition result comprising a character interpretation of said user speech and a
6 corresponding confidence score;

7 comparing said confidence score corresponding to said recognition result to a
8 predetermined minimum threshold; and

9 if said confidence score does not exceed said predetermined minimum
10 threshold, presenting said user with at least one empirically determined alternate
11 character candidate corresponding to said recognition result.